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Memorial Day is an important national holiday which honors and remembers those who died serving in the U.S. military. Once known as Decoration Day, this holiday originated following the American Civil War, when many cities held observances in May for the families of soldiers killed in battle, and citizens placed flowers on the graves of the loved ones they'd lost. Following World War I, its name changed to Memorial Day and the day was used to honor those lost in all American wars. Memorial Day celebrations can include parades held in towns and cities across the country, visits to cemeteries or memorials as well as social and family gatherings over the Memorial Day weekend. When is Memorial Day 2022? Originally observed on May 30 every year, Memorial day is now observed on the last Monday in May. This was changed in 1971 to allow for a three-day weekend to be created. Memorial Day 2022 will take place on Monday, May 30. How to Celebrate Memorial Day in the Classroom Incorporate these Memorial Day worksheets, activities and printables into your curriculum to honor the men and women who lost their lives in American wars. Help your students to understand the significance of Memorial Day with lesson plans and teaching resources for learning about the U.S. Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War, as well as the heroes and heroines who have served the country in various ways. These reading comprehension activities are a great opportunity to expand students' knowledge and patriotic art activities are a fun way for students to help decorate your classroom ready for this holiday. Give your students the power of choice with these 9-activity choice boards focused on Memorial Day writing, reading, and research. Teach your students about current and past citizens, as well as military personnel, who have served the United States in various ways with our resources. American Patriotic Pencil Wrap More Heroes Resources for Teachers Expand your teaching strategies using our resources. Includes warm-ups, and reference information, as well as, an activity that divides your classroom and helps students learn hands-on about the Civil War. Students will be engaged learning about World War I with our resources. Includes a word search puzzle on major battles, a writing activity, and internet research about propaganda. Investigate World War II and increase your students' knowledge using our resources which include reading passages with activities, a printable book containing activities, and much more. Discuss and help students understand the Vietnam War time period using these reading passages, critical thinking writing activities, and more. These War Resources for Social Studies Class will help your students learn what is defined as a "war" or "warlike", as well as, help you teach students about difficult events that take place in the U.S. and around the world. search memorial day - classroom activities, lessons and printables Memorial Day for kids is a patriotic holiday that might seem intangible to most. Many Americans might be celebrating Memorial Day by going to a cookout with family members, know it's a federal holiday and that banks are closed, and probably appreciate the fact they get a long weekend off school, but that is all the more reason to stop and teach your kids the importance of this day. Here are a few ideas that will hopefully get them to honor the military families who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Memorial Day Printable Coloring Pages Love this eagle coloring page! Lots of coloring pages to choose from listed at this site! Memorial Day Printable Activities Scavenger Hunt - perfect for older students! Memorial Day Videos for Kids Memorial Day (History for Kids) PBS Video about Memorial Day Celebrating Memorial Day Educational Video Memorial Day Vocabulary List Here are a few vocabulary words that would be great to share with students: Armed Forces: military, naval, and air forces, especially of a nation or of a number of nations Battlefield: the field or ground on which a battle is fought Bravery: brave spirit or conduct; courage; valor Cavalcade: a line of cars following for an event Cemetery: place where people are buried Declaration: a document embodying or displaying an announcement Decoration: a badge, medal, etc., worn as a mark of honor Defense: resistance against attack; protection Fallen Soldiers: members of the military who were killed while protecting our country Forefather: an ancestor Hero: a person noted for courageous acts or nobility of character History: past events Homeland: one's native land Liberty: freedom from external rule; independence Military Service: Soldiers in the armed forces Old Glory: another name for the United States flag Patriotism: devoted love, support, and defense of one's country; national loyalty Symbolism: the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities Union: joining of different smaller pieces to create one larger unit Valor: great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle Interesting Trivia About Memorial Day: Memorial Day is always the last Monday in May. Memorial Day pays tribute to those who have died during military service. It is sometimes confused with honoring those who have served in the military. That is actually Veterans Day. At 3 pm on Memorial Day, there is a moment of silence across the country. Some other ideas: Stop at a local nursing home or veteran facility and have kids play a game with some of the war veterans. A quick conversation while playing Checkers or Bingo could really brighten a day for an honorable someone. Have kids record a video recording thanking the troops for our freedoms. Upload it and email to an overseas unit. Go on a mini-field trip in your hometown. Look for things to take photos of that describe the following vocab words: honor, memorial, Old Glory, freedom, patriotic Below are also some great book links you might also want to check out (keep in mind that Flag Day will also soon be upon us). Below the books list is also three-pack of free worksheets for you to use as you please. The Wall by Eve Bunting F is For Flag by Wendy Cheyette Lewison America's White Table by Margot Theis Raven Click here to email your freebie Have a great holiday everyone and make sure to appreciate all those who have made our freedoms a reality! Compare and Contrast: Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day Compare and Contrast: Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day Do your students know the difference between Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day? This reading comprehension worksheet will teach them about the similarities and differences of the holidays. First, they'll read a passage that provides facts about ea Memorial Day is a U.S. Federal holiday. Its purpose is to remember the men and women who have lost their lives while serving in the U.S. armed forces. We began to celebrate this date after which war? More people died fighting during the Civil War than have died in any other conflict in our country's history. Following the Civil War, the first national cemeteries in the U.S. were established. Great for younger students and themed to this celebration. Find the theme related words in the puzzle. Write each word you find on a line. Use the clues to complete the puzzle. You will need to determine the word first. Clean up both paragraphs use all of proofreading marks. Sound out these words and determine the number syllables that are present. Use the dictionary entries to answer the questions. Pay attention to the bold terms in the sentences. Why do you think that it became a national holiday? Why is it an important holiday to observe? What are you doing on that day? Take sometime to write something thoughtful. Complete that passage by using the terms that are listed at the bottom of the worksheet. See if you can rearrange all these terms to make sense of them. Remember they all share a central theme. Find the words that connect the pair of words provided, changing only one letter per step. The law that established the day of the week on which this holiday would be observed. Write an acrostic poem about the celebration and events that take place. Some of these will require some thought and vocabulary. Find all these terms within the matrix of letters: Ceremony, Commemorate, Freedom, Monument, Remember, Respect, Sacrifice, Service, Tradition, Tribute, Unknown, Wreath Don't miss those letters. Spelling becomes fun. See if the kids know the significance of the wreaths. Add up all those soldiers by combining them into one. Symbols of the United States are taken away. How many are left? A really good phonics activity for students to learn new terms. There are no capital letters to use as anchors here. Help the soldier find the troops by traversing the maze. A good question to ask is what is the difference between Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. We use words like: tradition, hero, sacrifice, wreath, and remember. A little more advanced terms such as: medical, ceremony, service, commemorate, and monument. Interesting terms such as: salute, honor, troops, and decoration. This can make for a great classroom activity. Vocabulary words include: unknown, respect, tribute, and freedom. The last card in the set. Use all six of them to add variation. We have seen some students write very powerful poems with this acrostic setting. See if the students understanding the difference between liberty and freedom. Write a well thought out poem. Cut out the words on these 12 pages. We have heard about this holiday, but do you know what we celebrate this day? Let's take a look! In the United States, a national holiday for paying respects to our national heroes is observed every year. Since they gave their life away for our country, the day is known as Memorial Day. It is always celebrated on the last Monday of May each year. Every individual has their own way of paying respects to the martyrs. This holiday began as a day to honor the fallen soldiers during the Civil War. The first time, this day was officially observed in 1868 when Decoration Day was observed. In 1967, the name was changed to Memorial Day. Every year, the national concert is held on the lawn in front of the U.S. Capitol. Dressing up in the flag's colors, children wave flags to honor the heroes. Every year, a parade in Ironton, Ohio, is held too! The History of Memorial Day Memorial Day is an American public holiday observed annually on the last Monday of May. It honors the gallant men and women of the US military who have fallen in the nation's wars around the world. Formerly called "Decoration Day," it originated around the time of the American Civil War and was given the status of an official federal holiday in 1971. It's also considered the unofficial start of the summer season. Americans primarily commemorate Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries to place flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers, holding memorials and similar gatherings in honor of the war heroes, and participating in different Memorial Day parades held up and down the country. Early Observances The Civil War, fought between 1861 and 1865, led to more deaths than any other armed conflict in the history of the United States. So many lives were lost that their burial needed the establishment of America's first national cemeteries. Towards the end of the 1860s, people in various towns and cities had started organizing tributes for fallen soldiers during springtime. As a result, decorating the graves with flowers and offering prayers in honor of the departed became common. While the exact origin of the traditions remains somewhat unclear, local communities around the country have independently held ceremonies in this regard. The earliest recorded event of this kind is said to have been organized by a bunch of former slaves in Charleston, South Carolina in 1865. This was soon after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865. More than a hundred years on from this in 1966, the federal government officially declared Waterloo, New York as the hometown of this holiday. It was selected because the event here is an annual occurrence with lots of communities participating. Businesses tend to close during the proceedings and residents as well as visitors adorn the graves of fallen soldiers with flags and flowers. The very first Memorial Day in Waterloo was observed on May 5, 1866. The Story Behind the History Memorial Day (formerly "Decoration Day") was initially declared as a date for honoring just the people lost during the American Civil War. However, the US found itself in the middle of another major conflict during World War I. With time, the holiday has evolved to include military personnel martyred in other battles as well. Today, we observe this holiday to honor American soldiers who have died in any war. Aside from the Civil War and the two World Wars, recognition is also given to those who laid down their lives during the Vietnam War, Korean War, and the relatively recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. For many decades, May 30 was the official date of Memorial Day. This was selected by General John A. Logan for the original Decoration Day. Logan led an organization of Northern Civil War veterans and actively campaigned for a nationwide date of remembrance of fallen soldiers. In 1968, however, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was passed by the Congress. According to it, the last Monday of May was to be observed as Memorial Day. The intention behind this move was to create a three-day weekend for federal employees and military personnel. The change came into effect in 1971 and has been followed ever since. In the same legislation, Memorial Day was recognized as an official public holiday. Common Related Traditions Every year on Memorial Day, various events are held in honor of fallen military personnel across the United States. The achievements of veterans are also celebrated during these ceremonies. Moreover, heavily attended events and parades are common in New York, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.

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